

Indian Railways have not sought any aid from the Government of United States of America for the purpose of upgrading their System.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

East Coast Railway

326. **SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has not yet been finalised;

(b) whether the East Coast Railway has also not become functional yet;

(c) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Railways are presently facing acute resource constraints. Even within the available resources, some allocation of funds has been made to progress the efforts. The proposed new Zones will gradually become operational, depending upon the availability of investible resources for this purpose by the Railways.

Railway Projects in NER

327. **DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the ongoing railway projects and survey works being executed for improvement of railway network in the NER indicating total allocation, target fixed and progress of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Railway Projects in NER along with allocation, target fixed and progress of work are given in the Statement.